

Kankanaey language

Kankanaey (also spelled **Kankana-ey**) is a South-Central Cordilleran language under the Austronesian family spoken on the island of Luzon in the Philippines primarily by the Kankanaey people. Alternate names for the language include Central Kankanaey, Kankanai, and Kankanay.^[3] It is widely used by Cordillerans, alongside Ilocano, specifically people from the Mountain Province and people from the northern part of the Benguet Province.^[4] Kankanaey has a slight mutual intelligibility with the Ilocano language.

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Dialects

Ethnologue lists Mankayan-Buguias, Kapangan, Bakun-Kibungan, and Guinzadan as dialects of Kankanaey. Northern Kankanaey is listed as a separate language.

Kankanaey proper is spoken in north Benguet, southwest Mountain, southeast Ilocos Sur, northeast La Union, southeast Ilocos Sur, southwest Mountain, and southwest Ifugao provinces. Northern Kankanaey is spoken in western Mountain

Kankanaey	
Kankana-ey	
Native to	Philippines
Region	Northern Luzon
Ethnicity	Kankanaey people
Native speakers	(240,000 cited 1990 census – 2003) ^[1]
Language family	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none">Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Philippine<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northern Luzon<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meso-Cordilleran<ul style="list-style-type: none">Central Cordilleran<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nuclear Cordilleran<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bontok–Kankanay<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kankanaey
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Variously: <div>kne – Kankanaey</div> <div>xnn – Northern Kankanaey</div> <div>itt – Maeng Itneg</div>
Glottolog	kank1245 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kank1245) ^[2]

Province, Ilocos Sur Province (Quirino, Cervantes, Gregorio del Pilar, San Emilio municipalities), and Abra Province (Tubo municipality).

Phonology

This language should not be confused with a related, but different, language in the Sagada area called *Kankanaey*. Of particular phonological interest is the very common occurrence of what is called the "barred i" in IPA. It is the unrounded, high mid vowel on the IPA chart. The letter /e/ in Kankanaey is to be pronounced as this sound, and not as the e in words like *bet* or *wet*. This is also one of the vowels in a few other Northern Luzon languages like Iloko and Pangasinan.

Some words with this sound are as follows:

emmey - to go

entak - let's go (a contracted form of emmey tako)

ed - a preposition showing location or time marker (e.g. ed Baguio = in Baguio, ed nabbaon = in the long-ago times)

ippe-ey - to put

eng-gay - only, finish

Grammar

Kankanaey Content Roots

Kankanaey content roots divide the Kankanaey lexicon into different categories to define their usage and word type. The categories are class roots, property roots, stative roots, perception-stative roots, physical roots, and action roots. Word charts and definitions taken from Allen, Janet's *Kankanaey: A Role and Reference Grammar Analysis*.^[4]

Class Roots

Class roots are a class of nouns that are defined by physical or other sensory characteristics.^[5]

Example of class roots:

Word	Definition
<i>babai</i>	female, especially human
<i>beey</i>	house, home of person or anima; container where something is usually kept
<i>begas</i>	hulled rice



Area where Kankanaey (including Northern Kankanaey, but not Maeng Itneg) is spoken according to Ethnologue

Property Roots

Property roots point out a characteristic like size, taste, color, etc.^[6]

Example of property roots:

Word	Definition
<i>na lokneng</i>	soft (easily cut)
<i>na emas</i>	sweet, tasty
<i>ando</i>	tall, long

Stative Roots

Stative roots point out a temporary physical condition. Result-stative roots are states that are changed by an outside source.^[7]

Example of stative roots:

Word	Definition
<i>natey</i>	dead, deceased
<i>gadgad</i>	mangy
<i>kemi</i>	dented in, partially crushed
<i>nabeteng</i>	drunk

Perception-Stative Roots

Perception-stative roots point out a perception by a living being, such as physical, emotional and mental perception-states. Living beings are able to actively perceive with control and content, so these roots form predicates of a wider range than those formed from simple stative roots.^[8]

Example of perception-stative roots:

Word	Definition
<i>nailak</i>	see, look at
<i>bongot</i>	angry
<i>kibtot</i>	startled
<i>kiyapot</i>	rushed, stressed

Physical Roots

Physical roots point out movements and position such as natural movements, body movements, and positions, but not bodily functions. They may denote location, direction, or manner of movement.^[9]

Example of physical roots:

Word	Definition
<i>tedted</i>	drip
<i>ali</i>	move toward speaker, come
<i>saa</i>	go home
<i>balalong</i>	move downwards, descend
<i>sekad</i>	stamp, stomp
<i>tagtag</i>	run

Action Roots

Action roots point out an activity by a living and sometimes intentional participant. Some action roots indicate the direction of that action with respect to another participant; others denote a participant as involved with the action but not the end receiver. Rather than having the action root modified, Kankanaey roots are very specific as to what the action is. Many roots indicate the receiver of the action.^[9]

Example of action roots:

Word	Definition
<i>togda</i>	eat lunch
<i>tilid</i>	carry something on one shoulder
<i>tobʔong</i>	put a relatively small amount of something into a relatively large amount of water
<i>todyok</i>	jab or poke upwards at something

Reduplication

Multiple types of reduplication are used when forming words in Kankanaey. Unaffixed or affixed roots may experience reduplication, and have their first CV, CVC, or CV(C)CV of the base form copied, with each type of base executing different functions. Kankanaey has many roots that have canonical shapes that appear to possess reduplication. These irreducible roots can contain one syllable that is repeated such as *taktak* and *baba*, but other roots can contain a repeated syllable with a prefix or infix such as *togingging* and *wagawag*. All of these irreducible roots are not examples of reduplication as a word-building process.^[10]

Prefixes

Many Kankanaey affixes are normal prefixes that come directly before the root such as the *ka-* in *katokdo*, "seat-mate," from *tokdo*. A lot of reduplicative affixation is used before the prefixation such as the *CV-* and *na-* in *nabebeteng*, "was drunk," from *beteng*, "drunk". However, some CVC reduplication is applied after the prefix is added to the beginning of the stem such as the *ma-* and *CVC-* in *magmageyek*, "ticklish," from *geyek*, "to tickle". Some roots lose their first vowel when they are prefixed such as the *e* in *ʔemis*, "sweet, tasty," when prefixed to *mamʔis*, "sweet, tasty". This is because the glottal metathesizes with the second consonant under phonological constraints. If the root is one-syllable or if it is vowel reduced, then the reduplication is applied after the predicative affixation such as the *ma-* and *CVC-* in *matmatey*, "dying," from *tey*, "dead".^[11]

Suffixes

According to Allen, Janet's *Kankanaey: A Role and Reference Grammar Analysis*, only "two predicating affixes are suffixes, *-en* and *-an*. Some roots drop their last vowel when suffixed, as in *datngan* (come upon, find) from *dateng* (arrive)."^[11]

Infixes

To change *ᜆayos*, "flow down," to *ᜆomayos*, "flows down," the predicating affix *-om-* is infixed after the first consonant of the root word. In *kinaan*, "removed," the perfective affix *-in-* is infixed after the first consonant of *kaan*, "to remove".^[12]

Pinmanapanakpak, "was repeatedly hitting/slapping," is formed by first reduplicating the word *panakpak*, "hit with slapping sound," into *panapanakpak*, and then the predicating infixation and aspect infixation are added. This is because reduplication usually precedes both the predicating infixation and aspect infixation. However, in this example, vowel reduction occurred when the infixes were added before the vowel, causing the infixes *-in-* and *-om-* to become *-inm-*. When forming *binombomtak*, "were exploding," from *betak*, "explode," the reducible vowel and reduplication steps were re-ordered so no vowel reduction was experienced.^[12]

Some highly marked affixes have an infixed glottal stop leading the second vowel such as when forming *bangbang ᜆa*, "little old pots, toy pots," from *banga*, "pot".^[12]

Circumfixes

A lot of affixes consist of a prefix or an infix, which is also followed by a suffix. These are called circumfixes and have their own unique meanings, not a combination of the two parts.^[13]

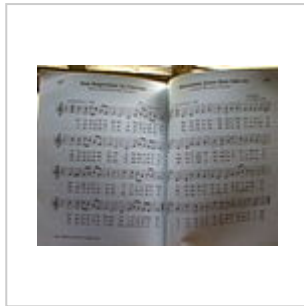
Examples taken from Allen, Janet's *Kankanaey: A Role and Reference Grammar Analysis*.^[13]

Original (and meaning)	Circumfix	Circumfixed Version (and meaning)
<i>ila</i> (to see)	<i>ka-...-an</i>	<i>ka-ila-an</i> (appearance)
<i>oto</i> (to cook)	<i>i-...-an</i>	<i>i-oto-an</i> (to cook for someone)

Predicate Formation

The Kankanaey vocabulary is arranged by root morphemes, and points out the important semantic properties of each root. Kankanaey roots deeply rely on the combination with their affixes to determine their meaning in phrases and clauses. The predicates that form are determined by the interaction of the affixation to the semantic properties of the root that are relevant in its context. *Aktionsart* is a way to categorize event semantics, proposed by Vendler (1967), by if they are "happening" or are static, and it distinguishes them by their temporal properties and its dynamicity. According to Allen, Janet's *Kankanaey: A Role and Reference Grammar Analysis*, "VVLP (1997) and Van Valin (2005) expanded the list of categories to reflect resultant situations, adding semelfactives and complex predicates--active accomplishments and causatives."^[7]

Gallery



Cover of the Kankanay Hymnal .

An open page of the Kankanay Hymnal.

A pile of Kankanaey Hymnal in the Church of Saint Mary, an Episcopal Church in Sagada, Mountain Province, Philippines.

The 23rd Psalm in the Kankanay Psalter.

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